



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

54

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/757,510	01/15/2004	Shigeru Miyamoto	723-1460	6319

27562 7590 12/02/2004

NIXON & VANDERHYE, P.C.
1100 N. GLEBE ROAD
8TH FLOOR
ARLINGTON, VA 22201

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, BINH AN DUC

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3713

DATE MAILED: 12/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/757,510	Applicant(s) MIYAMOTO ET AL.	
	Examiner Binh-An D. Nguyen	Art Unit 3713	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 January 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/443,869.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/15/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Preliminary Amendment filed January 15, 2004 has been received. According to the Amendment, the specification and claims 1-21 have been amended, and new claims 22-54 have been added. Currently, claims 1-54 are pending in the application. Acknowledgment has been made.
2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.
3. Claims 1-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gever et al. (6,329,994).

Gever et al. teaches a computer animation system and method for generating and supplying to a display an image signal for displaying a player object (characters 64, 48) existing in the vicinity of a land object (furniture objects 162, 164) by processing image data for the player object and the land object according to a program, comprising: a player object image data generator that generates player object image data to display a player object (characters 64, 48); a land object image data generator that generates land object image data to display a land object (sub-objects, static or moving icons, e.g.,

Art Unit: 3713

furniture objects 162, 164) (5:8-25); wherein the land object image data includes a program control code; a program control code detector that detects a program control code included in the land object image data for displaying the land object in the vicinity of the player (the control code imbedded in the sub-objects), and that detects when a predetermined relationship exist between the position of the player object and the land object (9:32-10:67); virtual cameras for viewing different angles of a three dimensional game space (24:5-54); generating sound; outputting animation data to automatically cause the player object to perform an action in according with the action code (player walking 14:64-15:25); "jump" action (15:37-61); detecting moving speed of a player; generating images in three dimensional space with player and land object image polygon data (15:64-18:39).

Note that, the limitations of climb action corresponding to wall (land object) (claims 5, 6, 16, 17, 26, 27, 36, 37, 49, and 50); jump action corresponding to hole or hollow (land object) (claims 3, 14, 15, 24, 25, 34, 35, 47, and 48); and land object is a hole (claims 3, 14, 24, 34, and 47) are inherent from Gever et al.'s teaching of sub-objects (5:8-6:60).

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 3713

4. Claims 1-54, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naka et al. (5,963,218) in view of Sasaki (5,577,960).

Naka et al. teaches a video game apparatus and method generating and supplying to a display an image signal for displaying a player object existing in the vicinity of a land object by processing image data for the player object and the land object according to a program, comprising: a player object image data generator that generates player object image data to display a player object; a land object image data generator that generates land object image data to display a land object (Figs. 37A-37E); wherein the land object image data includes a program control code; a program control code detector that detects a program control code included in the land object image data for displaying the land object in the vicinity of the player (the control code imbedded in the teleport which exchange status information for first and second players, 22:28-63 and Figures 41-43A), and that detects when a predetermined relationship exist between the position of the player object and the land object (further, the program control code is also imbedded in the moving platform over the trench, Figures 37A-37E and column 19:1-50); outputting animation data to automatically cause the player object to perform an action in according with the action code (pressing jumping command); land object is a hole (trench); "jump" action; detecting moving speed of a player (21:8-15).

Naka et al. does not explicitly teach generating images in three dimensional space with player and land object image polygon data (claims 1, 11, 12, 22, 32, and 42). Sasaki, however, teaches a video game apparatus and method generating and

Art Unit: 3713

supplying to a display an image signal for displaying a player object existing in the vicinity of a land object in a three dimensional space with player and land object image polygon data (5:61-9:24). See also, Figs. 1-12 and columns 2-11.

Regarding the limitations of climb action corresponding to wall (land object) (claims 5, 6, 16, 17, 26, 27, 36, 37, 49, and 50); jump action corresponding to hole or hollow (land object) (claims 3, 14, 15, 24, 25, 34, 35, 47, and 48); virtual cameras for viewing different angles of a three dimensional game space (7, 8, 18, 28, 29, 39, 45, 51, and 52); and generating sound (9, 10, 20, 21, 30, 31, 40, 41, 53, and 54), these limitations are notoriously well known in the video game industry.

Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the technique of embedding control code in land object images of Naka et al. with system and method for generating images in three dimensional space with player and land object image polygon data, as taught by Sasaki, to come up with a more interesting 3-D video game apparatus.

6. This is a continuation of applicant's earlier Application No. 09/443869. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the earlier application and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the earlier application. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action in this case. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Art Unit: 3713


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no, however, event will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Binh-An D. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-4440. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on 571-272-7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

BND


XUAN M. THAI
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TC3700